5. The conference recommended for establishment of District Composite Livestock and Demonstration Centres (Pashu Vigyan Kendras).

6. The conference recommended for provision of higher allocation for the rapid development of animal husbandry sector during the Ninth Plan.

Support Price of Wheat

1707. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the support price of wheat during the 1997-98 rabi marketing season has been fixed at Rs. 415 per quintal;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is higher in comparison to the last year;

(c) the extent to which this decision will be helpful in procuring the wheat in the open market;

(d) whether the Government have advised the States to make adequate arrangement to tackle the problem of storage and movement in the major wheat producing States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The minimum support price of wheat during 1997-98 marketing year is higher by Rs. 35 per qtl. or 9.2% over that of the last year.

(c) The increase provided by the Government in the MSP of wheat is expected to induce the farmers to increase their production and offer higher supplies for procurement to the public sector agencies.

(d) and (e) The Government has held discussions with the wheat producing states about the arrangement for procurement of wheat *vis-a-vis* other related problems such as storage, movement, availability of gunny bags, opening of purchase centres etc.

Graveyard Land of Wakf

1708. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Graveyard land of Wakf at Karnal-Ganj area of Kanpur, U.P. has been encroached and 500 buildings that were on rent are still not being vacated by the tenants; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard the Wakf properties ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, there are six graveyards in Karnel Ganj area which are under encroachment by 251 persons. Out of these, 175 cases of encroachments are sub-judice and 76 cases have been referred to Sunni Central Wakf Board, Lucknow, by the Managing Committee of Graveyards for taking necessary action for retrieval of encroached properties under Uttar Pradesh Muslim Wakfs Act, 1960. These encroachments are of permanent nature.

Corrupt IPS Officers in Tamil Nadu

1709. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of IPS officers in Tamil Nadu as on December, 1996;

(b) the number of IPS officers in State against whom charges of corruption have been framed since 1995 till date; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There are 143 IPS officers in Tamil Nadu as on December, 1996.

(b) Corruption charges have been framed against 3 IPS officers since 1995.

(c) The State Government have already launched investigations against these officers.

[Translation]

SC/ST/OBC/Females Population in Uttar Pradesh

1710. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of Uttar Pradesh as per 1991 census and the percentage of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Classes/Females therein;

(b) the steps taken to provide reservation to them in services and political, economic and educational areas as per the provisions of the Constitution;

(c) whether Other Backward Class persons in the State have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details of the list pertaining to OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.